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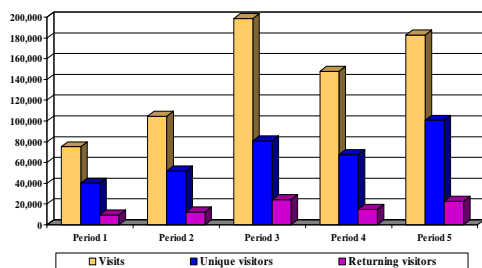
## ACTIVITY BRIEF

# Fiscal Decentralization Initiative and Local Government Information Network

**USAID**

**Regional Services Center**

Total number of visits, unique visitors and returning visitors in the region  
by period  
1 November 2002 and 30 April 2005



**Partners:**

Open Society Institute Budapest

**Geographic Targets:**

FDI: All countries in SEE, Caucasus, Central Asia and Moldova  
LOGIN: Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine

**Project Duration:**

2003 – 2006

**Contact Information:**

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Krisztian Zoltan Varga, LOGIN

U.S. Agency for International  
Development

### Activity Background

A stable, predictable stream of revenues is a prerequisite for strong local government that can be responsive to the needs of businesses and citizens. Open Society Institute, Budapest, implements a two-pronged program to facilitate this: the Fiscal Decentralization Initiative (FDI) and the Local Government Information Network (LOGIN). Multi-donor initiatives, FDI and LOGIN are supported by the World Bank Institute, UNDP, Open Society Institute and Council of Europe.

### Core Interventions

FDI's regional forums and publications:

- Transfer regional experience and best practices in SEE and beyond.
- Build a dialogue between national and local governments and NGOs.
- Increase awareness and consensus for fiscal decentralization in Caucuses and Central Asia.

Masters in Public Policy (fiscal policy):

FDI fellowships students from the target region build capacity.

LOGIN serves as an internet-based clearinghouse for local government information. Partnering with a local anchor organization in each country, LOGIN collects and disseminates information in 33 topics and nine languages.

### Activity Results

- Successful FDI forums were held in SEE on property taxation and valuation, fiscal equalization, financing public education. The forums spawned continuing relationships, and a study trip between countries.
- A request for follow-on in-depth technical assistance from the Government of Moldova was met.
- LOGIN expanded to Central Asia– adding Kyrgyzstan, with Armenia and Georgia from the Caucasus imminent! Visits to the LOGIN site increased over 60% in a single year – to more than 300,000. The database has expanded from 5000 to 8000 documents.
- LOGIN software management has been transferred to a local provider, a key step in future sustainability.